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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/757,274	01/14/2004	Patrick Y. Maeda	D/A1535 (1508/3640)	4324

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EXAMINER

PHAM, HAI CHI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2861

DATE MAILED: 10/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/757,274	Applicant(s) MAEDA, PATRICK Y.	
	Examiner Hai C. Pham	Art Unit 2861	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2006.
 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 8, 14-16 and 21-27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 8, 14-16 and 21-27 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1, 8, 15, 21 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sun et al. (US 6,091,537).

With regard to claim 1, Sun et al. discloses a micro-optic light emitting array comprising a plurality of vertical cavity surface-emitting lasers (VCSELs), wherein each vertical cavity surface-emitting laser (65) emits a laser beam focused with a micro-optic element (microlens 12) (Figs. 2-3), and wherein the plurality of vertical cavity surface-emitting lasers are arranged in a two-dimensional configuration of rows and columns that area staggered along the process direction (the vertical cavity surface-emitting

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laser 65 and the microlens 12 are arranged in a one-to-one configuration, and the whole assembly is staggered two-dimensionally) (col. 1, lines 44-56) (col. 5, lines 7-10).

With regard to claims 8 and 15, Sun et al. discloses a xerographic printing system (Figs. 4-5) comprising a laser printbar assembly including a plurality of micro-optic emitting arrays including a plurality of vertical cavity surface-emitting lasers (65), wherein each vertical cavity surface-emitting laser (65) emits a laser beam focused with a micro-optic element (microlens 12) (Figs. 2-3), and wherein the plurality of vertical cavity surface-emitting lasers are arranged in a two-dimensional configuration of rows and columns that area staggered along the process direction, and (the vertical cavity surface-emitting laser 65 and the microlens 12 are arranged in a one-to-one configuration, and the whole assembly is staggered two-dimensionally) (col. 1, lines 44-56) (col. 5, lines 7-10), a photoreceptor (150, Fig. 4 or 260, Fig. 5), which receives said emitted light and holds a charge image (col. 4, lines 7-8 and 43-44), and xerographic developer for applying toner to the charged areas (the developer is inherent to any xerographic printing system).

With regard to claims 21, 25 and 26, Sun et al. teaches:

- The number of beams per column in the process direction is 3 or greater (Fig. 4),
- the xerographic printing system having no overlap of the micro-optic focusing element (Figs. 4-5),
- the xerographic printing system comprising a raster output scanner or ROS (col. 1, lines 51-53).

3. Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Beier et al. (US 7,002,613).

Beier et al. discloses a printing system (Fig. 8) comprising a laser printbar imager assembly (VCSEL bars 84) including a plurality of micro-optic light emitting arrays having a plurality of vertical cavity surface-emitting lasers (VCSELs), wherein each vertical cavity surface-emitting laser (65) emits a laser beam focused with a micro-optic element (e.g., microlens) (col. 9, lines 56-64), and wherein the plurality of vertical cavity surface-emitting lasers are arranged in a two-dimensional configuration of rows and columns that area staggered along the process direction (col. 6, lines 59-61).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun et al.

Sun et al. discloses all the basic limitations of the claimed invention including the diameter of the microlens to be 100 μm and the Full Width at Half Maximum of the emitted laser beam at the VCSEL to be 3.2 μm , but fails to teach the diameter of the microlens to be about 2.5 to 4.0 times larger than the Full Width at Half Maximum of the emitted laser beam at the microlens. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set the diameter of the microlens with respect to the Full Width at Half Maximum of the emitted laser beam at the microlens at the claimed range, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.

6. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun et al. in view of Kwak (Pub. No. US 2004/0120376).

Sun et al. discloses all the basic limitations of the claimed invention except for the lasers within a particular array being switched on at different times.

Kwak discloses a two-dimensional vertical cavity surface emitting laser array for use in a printing system or a laser scanner (paragraph [0005]), wherein the light emitting source assembly is configured so as each VCSEL has an independent electrode such that one VCSEL is driven independently from an adjacent VCSEL (paragraph [0013]).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide independent electrodes to the VCSEL assembly in the device of Sun et al. as taught by Kwak. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the laser driver to easily address each light-emitting element.

7. Claim 1, 15-16 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fork et al. (US 6,121,983) in view of Sun et al.

Fork et al. discloses xerographic printing system comprising a laser printbar imager assembly (VCSEL printbar 101) (Fig. 2) including a plurality of micro-optic light emitting arrays (115) including a plurality of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers arranged in a two-dimensional configuration, wherein each vertical cavity surface emitting laser emits a laser beam focused with a micro-optic element (210), a photoreceptor (178, Fig. 1B), which receives said emitted light and holds a charge image, and xerographic developer (not shown), which applies toner to charged or uncharged areas of said photoreceptor produced by exposure to emitted light from the laser printbar imager assembly (col. 1, 14-22) (col. 5, lines 16-33).

Fork et al. fails to teach the plurality of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers being arranged in a two-dimensional configuration of rows and columns that area staggered along the process direction.

With regard to claim 1, Sun et al. discloses a micro-optic light emitting array comprising a plurality of vertical cavity surface-emitting lasers (VCSELs), wherein each vertical cavity surface-emitting laser (65) emits a laser beam focused with a micro-optic element (microlens 12) (Figs. 2-3), and wherein the plurality of vertical cavity surface-emitting lasers are arranged in a two-dimensional configuration of rows and columns that area staggered along the process direction (the vertical cavity surface-emitting laser 65 and the microlens 12 are arranged in a one-to-one configuration, and the whole assembly is staggered two-dimensionally) (col. 1, lines 44-56) (col. 5, lines 7-10).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Fork et al. by arranging the two-

dimensional VCSEL array in a staggered configuration as taught by Sun et al. for the purpose of increasing the spatial separation of the VCSELs to substantially decrease the crosstalk and interference between adjacent VCSELs.

With regard to claim 16, Fork et al. further teaches the photoreceptor being placed where the beams of at least some of the plurality of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers overlap (col. 9, lines 55-60).

With regard to claims 22-24, although Fork et al. teaches the placement of the photoreceptor being set such that the spacing of the projected spots on the surface of the photoreceptor is regular to within 10% of the pixel size, Fork et al. does not disclose the raster spacing, e.g., projected spots spacing, being either equal to 50% or greater than 50% but less than 90% intensity spot diameters or spot sizes. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to locate the photoreceptor such that the raster spacing being either equal to 50% or greater than 50% but less than 90% intensity spot diameters or spot sizes as claimed, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.

8. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fork et al. in view of Sun et al., as applied to claims 15-16 above, and further in view of Kwak.

Fork et al., as modified by Sun et al., discloses all the basic limitations of the claimed invention except for the xerographic printing system being a laser multifunction system.

However, it is old and well known in the art the xerographic printing system can be used as a laser multifunction system as evidenced by Kwak, which discloses a vertical cavity surface emitting laser for use in a printing system or a laser scanner (paragraph [0005]).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide independent electrode to the VCSEL assembly of Fork et al. as taught by Kwak. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the laser driver to provide a versatile scanner/printer system.

Pertinent Prior Art

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wilson (US 5,940,113) discloses a light bar printhead comprising a high-resolution, two-dimensionally staggered VCSEL array.

Jewell et al. (US 5,325,386) discloses a micro-optic light emitting array comprising a two-dimensional staggered array of VCSELs.

Vincent et al. (US 5,745,152) discloses a multibeam laser scanner comprising a two-dimensional staggered VCSEL array.

Sun et al. (US 6,257,739) discloses a page-width image scan including a two-dimensional staggered VCSEL array.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 8, 14-16 and 21-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai C. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-2260. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vip Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2458. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

October 5, 2006